



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)  
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

***CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency***

Situation Report #28, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

April 12, 2002

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

**BACKGROUND**

Two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men. A devastating regional drought compounded the crisis, drying up wells, parching agricultural land, killing off livestock, collapsing rural economies, and eventually exhausting the coping mechanisms of many ordinary Afghans, forcing them to leave their homes in search of food and water.

International relief agencies, with support from the United States (U.S.), have long been active in providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, even during the restrictive years of the Taliban. On October 7, 2001, a Coalition-led military campaign against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces began, and by December 2001, the Taliban had collapsed. The new Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) was sworn in on December 22, 2001, increasing humanitarian access to the country and beginning the process of reconstruction. Tens of thousands of refugee and internally displaced families have started to return to their homes to assist in the rebuilding. The U.S. Agency for International Development's Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), which began its emergency coordination work in response to the regional drought in June 2001, continues to assess the humanitarian needs of vulnerable Afghans, and to monitor the relief programs of its implementing partners.

**Afghanistan: Numbers at a Glance**

**Total population** (CIA Factbook) .....26,813,057

**Refugees Since January 1, 2002** (UNHCR)

Pakistan ..... 60,000

Iran ..... unknown

**Old Caseload Refugees** (UNHCR)

Pakistan .....2,000,000

Iran .....1,500,000

**Internally Displaced** (UNDP/OCHA)

Total as of February 20, 2002 ..... 920,000

    north and northeast..... 500,000

    south and west ..... 420,000

**Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002** (UNHCR)

Pakistan (spontaneous) ..... 180,000

Pakistan (voluntary assisted since March 1)..... 223,000

Iran (spontaneous) ..... 61,000

Iran (voluntary assisted since April 9)..... 1,300

**Internally Displaced Returns Since January 1, 2002** (IOM)

To Kabul (spontaneous) ..... 64,750

To northeast (spontaneous) ..... 117,000

To Shomali Plain (voluntary assisted)..... 24,700

From Herat (voluntary assisted) ..... 15,014

From Mazar-e-Sharif (voluntary assisted)..... 25,000

From Pyandj River (voluntary assisted)..... 3,862

**FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan\* ..... \$549,395,899**

**FY 2001/2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan ..... \$88,208,180**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

**Overview.** Three possible mass graves were reported discovered in Bamiyan Province. An Afghan worker for an U.N agency was murdered in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh Province, and another was shot in Faisabad, Badakshan Province. Several rockets were fired at peacekeepers in Kabul, with no reported injuries. The AIA Minister of Defense narrowly escaped a bomb attack in Jalalabad that killed five bystanders. Factional fighting in Nimruz Province, and farmers protesting poppy eradication in Nangarhar Province, temporarily disrupted refugee returns from Iran and

*Pakistan. An earthquake of 5.8 magnitude struck Nahrin District, Baghlan Province, killing or injuring more than 100 people. Initial results of the World Food Program (WFP)'s countrywide emergency needs assessment indicate continued, and in some cases worsened, drought-related food insecurity. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return home this week from Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, and the Pyandj River on the Tajik border. A joint nutrition survey in Badghis Province found the population in generally poor health, especially children under five.*

**Political/Military.** On April 5, the reported discovery of three possible mass graves in Bamiyan Province was brought to the attention of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the AIA by representatives of the Hazara community in Bamiyan Province. A mass grave is defined by the U.N. as a burial site containing three or more victims of execution. These graves allegedly contain the bodies of members of the Hazara community killed approximately one month before the fall of the Taliban. A joint UNAMA and AIA team, comprised of the U.N. Human Rights Advisor, the U.N. Police Advisor, and an AIA representative of the Minister of Interior, were dispatched to Bamiyan Province. The team visited the sites, was undertaking a preliminary assessment and verification, and was consulting with the local community and authorities. On April 11, UNAMA requested the assistance of international forensic experts to further their investigation.

**Security.** On April 10, an Afghan worker for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was murdered in Mazar-e-Sharif. Lakhdar Brahimi, the U.N. Special Representative to Afghanistan, called the murder part of a “disturbing pattern of attacks on civilians including humanitarian personnel in the northern region in recent months.” On April 5, an Afghan staff member of another international agency was shot and wounded in Faizabad near the U.N. offices. Previous attacks in January and February in the north targeted Afghans working for the U.N. or private relief agencies.

On April 12, heavy fighting was reported 25 miles west of Kabul between two rival factions. On April 8, factional fighting reportedly erupted around the Afghan border city of Zaranj, the capital of Nimruz Province (see the Refugees section of this report for the effect of this fighting on the program of assisted returns from Iran).

On April 9, an Afghan soldier was killed when his vehicle ran over a landmine in Kandahar Province. On the same day, attackers in Paktia Province threw two grenades at a military truck carrying an Afghan patrol working with U.S. forces, killing one person in the truck and the two assailants.

On April 8, AIA Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim escaped injury when a bomb exploded in front of his convoy in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province. Five bystanders were killed and 16 others were injured in the attack, according to local officials. On April 10, four suspects were reportedly arrested in connection with the attack.

The start of the AIA’s poppy eradication program on April 8 was linked to the outbreak of violence in several places. According to news reports, poor poppy farmers are protesting the government’s cash compensatory offer for destroyed poppy flower fields as only a fraction of the narcotic’s eventual market value, and insufficient for farmers to be able to repay debt incurred while planting their fields. AIA authorities have said they will destroy the crops if farmers do not do so. On April 8, in Nangarhar Province about 40 miles east of Jalalabad, farmers reportedly opened fire on provincial officials surveying their fields, killing one person and wounding four. The farmers also blocked the highway between Kabul and Pakistan and pelted vehicles with rocks. On April 10, the protesters were reported to have dispersed (see the Food Aid and Refugees sections of this report for the effect of this week’s insecurity in Nangarhar Province on the provision of humanitarian assistance). On April 7, press reports indicate one to eight protesters were killed in a confrontation with authorities in the southwestern Helmand Province, the country’s largest poppy growing area.

On April 7, two rockets were fired on International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers who were patrolling an eastern Kabul suburb. Neither rocket caused any damage or injuries. A subsequent search located four additional rockets on self-timers, aimed at an ISAF base, in the same location from which the two rockets were launched. On April 10, in raids around Kabul, ISAF soldiers and Afghan police seized a weapons cache consisting of 151 rockets similar to the two fired at the ISAF base, in addition to rocket-propelled grenades, mines, and rifles.

**Flood.** On April 5, the Afghan Red Crescent Society reported that flash floods caused by heavy rains in the Deh Miran area of the northwestern Faryab Province killed 39 people, destroyed 323 homes, and affected 843 families (4,215 people). According to reports from the U.N. Regional Co-ordinator in the Faryab capital Maimana, a joint assessment team sent to Deh Marin on April 6 found considerable damage to cropland, especially the irrigated land around the village, with varying levels of damage to houses. Local leaders reported burying 13 bodies, with 11 people missing, following a hailstorm and heavy rains on March 29. There were no injuries reported. A second helicopter assessment team passing over the area did not report sighting any extensive damage to crops or homes from the air. UNAMA reports that any relief assistance required will be provided by sufficient stocks available in the region.

**Earthquake.** On April 12, at 8:30 am local time, an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck Nahrin District, Baghlan Province in northeastern Afghanistan, approximately 90 miles north of Kabul. Initial UNAMA reports indicate 27 people died and approximately 120 were injured. According to USAID/OFDA grantee Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), most of the casualties occurred in the village of Dawabi, some 25 miles southeast of the epicenter of the March 25 earthquake, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale, which killed 800 and affected approximately 70,000 people in the area. Organizations operating under existing USAID grants, which had redirected assistance to help meet the emergency food, water, and shelter needs of those affected by the last earthquake, will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to any new victims following this latest tremor. Many people in Nahrin District were living in tents after the March 25 quake, and may have been spared injury this time from newly collapsed houses and buildings. UNAMA has sent a helicopter mission to the region to assess damages and relief needs.

**Food Aid and Logistics.** Since October 2001, WFP, with support from USAID, has delivered 407,643 MT of food into Afghanistan, of which 326,230 MT has been distributed throughout the country, assisting some 6.6 million food-insecure Afghans.

Insecurity in northeastern Nangarhar Province this week forced the suspension of nine WFP monitoring missions, and temporarily halted the delivery and distribution of food assistance from the Jalalabad warehouse.

Initial results of the WFP's countrywide Rapid Emergency Food Needs Assessments (REFNA) are becoming available. As of April 5, 48 helicopter assessments had been completed in the north, and 14 helicopter assessments had been completed in Ghor and Badghis provinces in the west. WFP has also undergone several road assessments in these areas, along with road assessments in southern and eastern regions of the country. Assessments by helicopter in the central highlands should begin by late April. According to WFP, the findings typically indicate that in villages without any irrigation infrastructure, people are heavily reliant on food aid to cope with the drought. In villages with irrigation, the food security situation for some landowning villagers was better, but many were still reliant on food aid to constitute at least part of their family's daily food requirements. In some villages, beneficiaries told WFP teams that food aid had helped not only to feed

their families, but it had also prevented the sale of family land and livestock, had assisted the poorest in repaying loans taken earlier to meet food needs, had prevented out-migration from Afghanistan, and had halted the early marriage of daughters. In other more vulnerable villages, WFP found that conditions had deteriorated, and in addition to increased and diversified food aid, more non-food items such as seeds and medicine were needed. WFP reports that a large proportion of families in nearly every village assessed remain in a weak food security position and will continue to rely on food assistance over the coming months to prevent another hunger crisis.

Melting snow compounded by heavy rain has continued to deteriorate road conditions between Faisabad, Badakshan Province and Taloqan, Takhar Province in the northeast, according to WFP.

**IDPs and Refugees.** The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the AIA, and the NGO community are preparing for the anticipated return home this summer of up to 1.2 million Afghan refugees and IDPs (approximately 400,000 refugees from Pakistan, 400,000 refugees from Iran, and 400,000 IDPs in Afghanistan).

Several security incidents this week hindered refugee returns (see Security section of this report). On April 9, UNHCR recommended that Afghan refugees from Pakistan halt returns via the Torkham border crossing due to roadblocks set by protesting poppy farmers in Nangarhar Province along the route to Jalalabad. UNHCR staff were reportedly unable to reach the Mohmandar encashment center, where returnees from Pakistan receive their cash grants. The April 8 bombing in Jalalabad took place near UNHCR's distribution center, which was then temporarily closed. According to UNHCR, this week's roadblocks and tension stranded 14,000 Afghan returnees on the road between Torkham and Jalalabad, and forced some 18,000 Afghans to delay their return home after registering at the Takhtabaig voluntary repatriation center in Pakistan. Refugee returns resumed on April 10 after the protesting poppy farmers permitted trucks carrying returnees to pass.

According to UNHCR, more than 223,000 Afghans have returned from Pakistan since its program of voluntary assisted repatriation began March 1 at Takhtabaig, in North West Frontier Province (NWFP). In response to the growing number of returnees, UNHCR opened a new registration center on April 8 at Mohamand Ghat near the Nawa Pass in NWFP, and another at Balili, just outside of Quetta,

in Baluchistan Province to the south. UNHCR mobile registration teams are also operating in NWFP, Baluchistan, and Sindh provinces. UNHCR plans to open additional registration centers next week, including one at Azakhiel near Peshawar and another in Karachi.

On April 9, UNHCR began the voluntary assisted repatriation process from Iran. Registration centers were set-up in Teheran, elsewhere throughout the country, and in the first week of the program, 1,300 Afghans elected to return home. Returns this summer are expected to average 1,600 per day, six days a week. The Afghans left Iran via the Islam Qala crossing point at Dogharun in the north, and on the Afghan side of the border were boarded onto IOM trucks for the onward journey. At the Jami Settlement and the Gazergah Transit Center in Herat, returnees receive \$10 - half the sum provided to returnees from Pakistan since IOM provides transport up to their home provinces - to finance their final travel home, as well as UNHCR family packages containing plastic tarpaulins, jerrycans, blankets, a sleeping mat, soap, hygienic items, and 150 kilograms of wheat. This week NGO Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) expressed concern about the voluntary return program, noting economic and social pressure on Iran to reach a target number of returns, and citing the alleged forcible return of 6,800 Afghans through the Milak crossing in the last three weeks.

On April 8, fighting reportedly erupted around the Afghan border city of Zaranj, the capital of Nimruz Province. The tension forced UNHCR to halt plans to begin repatriating Afghans from Iran through the southern Milak-Zaranj border crossing. UNHCR instead directed returnees to the primary Islam Qala crossing in the north.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to assist with voluntary IDP returns across Afghanistan. On April 8, IOM and the NGO GOAL carried out the first of three IDP returns from Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh Province to neighboring Jowzjan Province. A total of 3,133 persons will be assisted to return to this area over the coming days. On April 10 and 11, IOM assisted 500 IDP families (2,500 people) from Mazar-e-Sharif to return to Dar-e-Suf District, Samangan Province. Last week, IOM assisted 2,852 returnees to Dar-e-Suf District. From April 5-8, IOM assisted 2,789 Afghans from Maslakh camp in Herat to return to their villages in Herat and Badghis provinces. To date, IOM has assisted 15,014 people who had been living in Maslakh camp to return home. Local authorities are reportedly

pressing IOM to increase the number of daily returns.

In northern Afghanistan, IDPs have begun leaving camps on the islands in the Pyandj river, which forms the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Since April 8, some 3,862 people boarded barges and crossed the river, where IOM trucks took them home to Kunduz Province and they received UNHCR returnee kits and WFP food aid.

According to WFP, the number of Afghans waiting to enter Pakistan at the Chaman border crossing outside the Killi Faizo transit camp was 41,000. UNHCR reports that some of these Afghans have been waiting at Chaman for two months.

**Health.** With USAID/OFDA support, a Nutrition and Mortality Survey conducted in March by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Badghis Province found generally poor health among the population. The survey concluded that chronic malnutrition is a very common problem affecting children under age five, and the mortality rate of children in this age group is statistically greater than the standard defining an emergency situation. The estimated crude mortality rate for the population at large, however, does not exceed emergency rates or the rate previously estimated for all of Afghanistan in the early 1990s. The Survey concluded that the one-time food distributions carried out in Badghis during the winter likely had little impact on the poor nutritional status of most children, and did not evenly reach heads of households. Strategies recommended by the Survey for addressing the nutrition problems indicated include targeted supplementary feeding programs for children, fortified wheat flour, and a regular food supply rather than single blanket distributions.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Background.** On October 4, 2001, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by USAID/OFDA, Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Humanitarian Demining Program (State/HDP), the Department of State's

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance is for displaced persons inside Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

On March 26, 2002, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Robert P. Finn issued a disaster declaration due to the earthquake in Baghlan Province. USAID/OFDA responded by providing an additional \$25,000 in Disaster Assistance Authority to ACTED, one of many USAID-funded grantees who are providing humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due

to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

#### USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

**Personnel.** USAID/OFDA currently has one Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in Kabul to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in the region. USAID/DART members coordinate with the humanitarian relief community and assess the humanitarian situation.

### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$743,543
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
	Airlift – Islamabad	35,400 blankets		\$312,350
	Airlift – Pakistan	5 health kits		\$29,415
	Airlift – Turkmenabad	5 health kits		\$33,923
	Airlift – Uzbekistan	350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	10,000 kitchen sets and 20,000 blankets		\$473,400
	Airlift – Mazar-e-Sharif	37,600 blankets for UNICEF		\$65,000
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	1,000 winterized tents		\$167,000
	ACTED	Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
	ACTED	IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
	ACTED	Livelihoods, agriculture, emergency rehab	Takhar, Baghlan, Shamali, Kabul, and Faryab.	\$750,000
	CARE	Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,537,035
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,087
	Church World Service	Transport of non-food items		\$49,902

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
Concern Worldwide		Distribution of seeds & tools, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, income generation activities	Badakshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Bamiyan provinces	\$1,737,318
Concern Worldwide		Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343
Field Support		Operational support for DARTs in Central Asia Region		\$1,339,456
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)		Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
FAO		Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
FAO		Manual locust eradication program	North	\$260,000
FAO		Security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, & spring seed distribution	All	\$2,500,000
FOCUS / Aga Khan		Seed multiplication, water supply rehabilitation, and complementary food distribution	Bamiyan, Baghlan, and Balkh	\$1,436,134
GOAL		Food, shelter, water, sanitation, winterization	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$5,500,000
GOAL		Emergency agricultural, potable water and sanitation rehabilitation, and shelter repair	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$1,000,000
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)		Seed multiplication, technical assistance for seed procurement and regulation	All	\$2,525,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh provinces	\$562,313
IOM		Distribution of charcoal for cooking and heating fuel	Herat, Kunduz, and Faryab	\$1,069,760
International Medical Corps (IMC)		Primary health care	Herat	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan	\$3,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)		Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
IRC		Medical, public health, education & self-help programs in camps and urban settings	Balkh, Ghor	\$3,250,104
International Resource Group (IRG)		Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy Corps		Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps		Rehabilitation of wells & agriculture infrastructure, seed multiplication	Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Takhar, Kunduz & Baghlan	\$3,000,308

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
UNOCHA		Coordination	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
UNCHS (Habitat)		Cash-for-work rehabilitation of public areas, solid waste removal	Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif	\$382,850
Save the Children (SC)/US		Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
SC/US		Spot reconstruction, cash-for-work, and medical clinic rehabilitation	Faryab, Sar-e-Pul	\$3,262,312
Shelter for Life		Cash-for-work road reconstruction & emergency home repair for returning IDPs	Kunduz & Takhar	\$1,294,550
Solidarites		Rehabilitation, agricultural revitalization	Balkh, Bamiyan, Samangan	\$1,739,115
World Food Program (WFP)		Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000
WFP		Emergency road repair	Turkmen border	\$300,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center		\$2,000,000
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$84,863,726</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan		\$2,000,000
WFP		31,050 MT Lentils and vegetable oil		\$25,418,500
WFP		36,000 MT Wheat		\$15,900,000
WFP		72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
WFP		24,320 MT Food commodities		\$18,600,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$100,473,500</b>
<b>USAID/OTI</b>				
Voice of America		Radio program		\$187,820
IOM		HEAR bulletin and radios		\$1,500,000
IOM		Community reconstruction		\$8,095,631
Internews		Media/journalist training		\$998,720
RONCO		Small grants/operations support		\$3,000,000
UNDP		UNDP Trust Fund in support of the Interim Afghan Administration		500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OTI .....</b>				<b>\$14,282,171</b>
<b>STATE/HDP</b>				
HALO Trust		Demining program		\$3,300,000
UNICEF		Mine awareness program		\$700,000
UN Mine Action Program		Demining equipment		\$1,000,000
RONCO		UXO experts		\$2,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 State/HDP .....</b>				<b>\$7,000,000</b>
<b>USDA</b>				
WFP		40,000 MT of Food commodities		\$22,500,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>Total FY 2002 USDA .....</b>				<b>\$22,500,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>				
ICRC		Emergency Appeal		\$10,100,000
ICMC		Support for Afghans in Pakistan		\$515,304
IFRC		Emergency Appeal		\$4,000,000
IOM		Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
IOM		Support for Refugees and IDPs		\$1,000,000
IRC		Operational Support		231,248
Mercy Corps		Support for Afghans in Pakistan		\$376,781
Mercy Corps		Operational support		\$162,775
UNDP		Support for Information Systems		\$500,000
UNOCHA		Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,125,000
UNOCHA		Coordination of activities (communications, IT, security)		\$1,000,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)		Special Program for Afghanistan		\$500,000
UNHCR		Emergency Appeal		\$30,000,000
UNHCR		Support for returning Afghan refugees		\$20,000,000
UNICEF		Back-to-school campaign		\$2,000,000
UNICEF		Emergency Relief		\$4,000,000
WFP		Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
WFP		Coordination and Support Services		\$1,500,000
WHO		Basic health for returning Afghans		\$1,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 State/PRM ** .....</b>				<b>\$85,011,108</b>
<b>DOD</b>				
		Airdrop of 2,423,700 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)		\$50,897,769
<b>Total FY 2002 DOD .....</b>				<b>\$50,897,769</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan** .....</b>				<b>\$365,028,274</b>

<b>TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
CARE		Purchase and distribution of winter wheat to 36,000 people		\$998,180
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA.....</b>				<b>\$998,180</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		35,000 MT wheat flour		20,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP.....</b>				<b>\$20,000,000</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan.....</b>				<b>\$20,998,180</b>



<b>FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*.....</b>	<b>\$184,367,625</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002**.....</b>	<b>\$365,028,274</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001.....</b>	<b>\$549,395,899</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001.....</b>	<b>\$67,210,000</b>
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002.....</b>	<b>\$88,208,180</b>

\*Note: An accounting adjustment was made on April 12 to State/PRM funding amounts for FY01 resulting in an increase of \$1.26 million in the previously reported total for FY01. Detailed breakdowns of FY01 and FY02 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region situation reports.

\*\*Note: An accounting adjustment was made on April 12 to State/PRM funding amounts for FY02, resulting in a reduction of \$4.66 million in the previously reported total for FY02. State/PRM contributions include funding obligated to international organizations and NGOs in FY02, as well as new contributions to UN partners announced on April 2.

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Bernd McConnell  
Director, Central Asia Task Force

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)  
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

***CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency***

Situation Report #27, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

April 5, 2002

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

**BACKGROUND**

Two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men. A devastating regional drought compounded the crisis, drying up wells, parching agricultural land, killing off livestock, collapsing rural economies, and eventually exhausting the coping mechanisms of many ordinary Afghans, forcing them to leave their homes in search of food and water.

International relief agencies, with support from the United States (U.S.), have long been active in providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, even during the restrictive years of the Taliban. On October 7, 2001, a Coalition-led military campaign against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces began, and by December 2001, the Taliban had collapsed. The new Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) was sworn in on December 22, 2001, increasing humanitarian access to the country and beginning the process of reconstruction. Tens of thousands of refugee and internally displaced families have started to return to their homes to assist in the rebuilding. The U.S. Agency for International Development's Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), which began its emergency coordination work in response to the regional drought in June 2001, continues to assess the humanitarian needs of vulnerable Afghans, and to monitor the relief programs of its implementing partners.

**Afghanistan: Numbers at a Glance**

**Total population** (CIA Factbook) .....26,813,057

**Refugees Since January 1, 2002** (UNHCR)

Pakistan ..... 60,000

Iran ..... unknown

**Old Caseload Refugees** (UNHCR)

Pakistan .....2,000,000

Iran .....1,500,000

**Internally Displaced** (UNDP/OCHA)

Total as of February 20, 2002 ..... 920,000

    north and northeast..... 500,000

    south and west ..... 420,000

**Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002** (UNHCR)

Pakistan (Total) ..... 364,000

    Pakistan (spontaneous) ..... 180,000

    Pakistan (voluntary assisted since March 1) . 184,000

Iran (spontaneous) ..... 61,000

**Internally Displaced Returns Since January 1, 2002** (IOM)

To Kabul (spontaneous) ..... 64,750

To Shomali Plain (voluntary assisted)..... 24,700

To northeast (spontaneous) ..... 117,000

From Herat (voluntary assisted) ..... 7,145

From Mazar-e-Sharif (voluntary assisted)..... 20,000

**Total FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Assistance to Afghanistan\* ..... \$552,795,899**

**Total FY 2001/2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan..... \$88,208,180**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

**Overview.** *The Loya Jirga will meet June 10-16 and will have 1,450 members, two thirds of whom will be elected. The AIA has presented donors with its plan for the country's security needs, including an Afghan National Army. On April 4, Afghan security officials reported the arrest of hundreds of people allegedly planning a bombing campaign in Kabul to destabilize the government. On April 5, UNOCHA reported that flash floods caused by heavy rains in Faryab Province killed at least 39 people, destroyed 323 homes, and affected 843 families (4,215 people). A further 1,400 earthquake-affected families (7,000*

*people) in need were reached in remote areas, while the focus of the response to the March 25 earthquake was shifting from relief to reconstruction. In Badakshan Province, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has allocated 3,700 metric tons (MT) of wheat and 500 MT of vegetable oil in take home rations for 32,000 school children as part of its food-for-education program. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began using mobile teams in the Pakistani cities of Karachi and Quetta to register Afghan voluntary repatriation applicants. On April 3, UNHCR, the AIA, and Iran signed a refugee repatriation agreement for the voluntary return of*

*Afghan refugees in Iran to begin April 9. The number of Afghans waiting on the Pakistani border at the Chaman crossing grew from 30,000 to 40,000 over the past week. Data collection by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the USAID/OFDA supported Nutrition and Mortality Survey continues in Badghis Province.*

**Political/Military.** *On April 2, the Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga announced that the Loya Jirga will meet June 10-16 to choose a transitional government. The former king Zahir Shah is expected to return from exile on April 16 to call the assembly into session. According to the Commission, 1,051 of the 1,450 Loya Jirga members will be elected to the body. The remaining seats have been allocated to other groups, including: 53 seats for the current government; 100 seats for Afghan refugees; six seats for Afghan internally displaced persons (IDPs); and 25 seats for Afghan nomads. A minimum of 160 seats have been guaranteed to women members. Candidates for the Loya Jirga cannot have links with terrorism, drug-smuggling, war crimes, or the murdering of innocent people. The new transitional government chosen by the Loya Jirga will take over from the AIA on June 22 and will govern for 18 months, until elections are held.*

*According to news reports, Turkey has agreed in principle to assume leadership of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), currently under the command of Britain. Major General Akin Zorlu led a Turkish military delegation to Kabul on April 4 to begin preparations for the transfer of control. Turkey, which currently has 267 troops in Afghanistan, is expected to boost its forces by 1,000 before taking over ISAF command in May.*

*On April 3, the first 600 soldiers of a new Afghan National Guard, trained for six weeks by ISAF forces, graduated in a ceremony attended by AIA Chairman Hamid Karzai on the outskirts of Kabul. The first soldiers will serve initially as part of Karzai's presidential guard, but the troops will report to Defense Minister Mohammad Fahimy. The 30 officers chosen to command the First Battalion were selected from each of Afghanistan's 30 provinces.*

*On April 3, at a meeting of potential donors in Geneva, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah presented the AIA's plan for the country's security needs. The plan envisages an army of 60,000, an air force of 8,000, 12,000 border guards, and a police force of 70,000. Donors agreed to each lead in one sector, with the U.S. agreeing to lead on military*

*training, Germany to lead on police training, the United Kingdom to lead on counter-narcotics, Italy to lead on judicial and legal reforms, and the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to lead on the demobilization of 70,000 former combatants.*

**Security.** *On April 4, Afghan security officials reported the arrest of hundreds of people who were allegedly planning to plant bombs in Kabul as part of a campaign to destabilize the AIA and former king Zahir Shah. Afghan officials linked the bombing plot to warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Pashtun opponent to the AIA whose current whereabouts are unknown. On April 5, the AIA reported that approximately half of those arrested have been released.*

*WFP staff curtailed monitoring missions into Paktia and Khost provinces, as the security situation there remains tense. Coalition forces were fired upon in the area of Shah-e-Kot valley on April 3, and pamphlets are reportedly circulating offering a reward for the killing of Coalition forces. Separately, the security situation in Konar and Laghman provinces limited WFP field travel to remote locations. According to WFP, unexploded ordinance at a former ammunition store near the airport in Mazar-e-Sharif is widely scattered and is a danger to passing farmers, cattle, and people close to the main road.*

*In a letter sent to the U.S. Government on April 3, a coalition of U.S. humanitarian aid organizations expressed their concern that relief workers were being put at increased risk because many U.S. military personnel, dressed in civilian clothes as they also provide relief services, are blurring the lines between civilian and military aid workers.*

*On April 2, the U.N. warned expatriate staff in the Chaman border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan of the security risk posed by a possible plan to kidnap international staff. In response, the U.N. introduced increased security measures. On April 1 in Chaman, a grenade attack during an attempted robbery of locals by two unidentified suspects on motorcycles killed two people and injured 35 others.*

*According to wire reports, on April 1, ISAF launched an intense police operation against suspected Northern Alliance soldiers in Kabul who have not been paid and may therefore have been attacking local residents and robbing them. In a bid to stamp out a surge in these armed robberies over the past two weeks, ISAF has significantly increased its presence in those suburbs that have been struck*

*repeatedly. Last week, gunmen killed two people in the area while attempting to abduct a young woman.*

*On April 1, a British military spokesman reported two recent shooting incidents in Kabul targeting ISAF peacekeepers. A convoy of British soldiers was fired upon on March 30. On March 29, an armored patrol of German peacekeepers was fired upon. No one was injured in either incident.*

**Flood.** *On April 5, UNOCHA reported that flash floods caused by heavy rains in the northwestern Faryab Province killed at least 39 people, destroyed 323 homes, and affected 843 families (4,215 people). More than 2,000 animals were killed, and hundreds of acres of land, canals, and bridges were damaged in the Deh Miran area. Other areas affected included Qal'a-i-Turdi and Ghulbia, north and east of the city of Bilchiragh. Rain was continuing in the Faryab capital of Maimana, and the river there had burst its banks. UNOCHA reported that assessment teams working from the provincial capital were trying to reach the area, but that bad weather and road conditions hamper both land and air access.*

*According to press reports, a flash flood on March 29 damaged homes and destroyed food stocks in Yulmarab village near the town of Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh Province. Local officials reported that 24 homes were badly flooded. No injuries were reported.*

**Earthquake.** *On March 25, at 7:26 pm local time, an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck Nahrin District, Baghlan Province in northeastern Afghanistan, approximately 100 miles north of Kabul. Organizations operating under existing USAID grants redirected assistance to help meet the emergency food, water, and shelter needs of the estimated 14,000 families (70,000 people) affected by the earthquake. UNOCHA reported on April 1 that the focus of response was now shifting from emergency relief to reconstruction.*

*According to UNAMA, on April 2, Afghan and aid officials jointly assessed three remote and difficult-to-access areas in Nahrin District where the needs of quake-affected villagers were identified. The three areas were Jelgah Valley, southeast of Nahrin City; Kogadai Bala, west of Nahrin; and Sugaan Valley, southwest of Nahrin. Some 1,400 additional families (7,000 people) were found to be in need of assistance and are being provided tents, blankets, and clothing, while 900 of these families (4,000 people) are receiving food aid.*

**Food Aid and Logistics.** *Since October 2001, WFP, with support from USAID, has delivered 376,657 MT of food into Afghanistan, of which 309,797 MT has been distributed throughout the country, assisting some 6.6 million food-insecure Afghans.*

*WFP has allocated 3,700 MT of wheat and 500 MT of vegetable oil as take-home rations for 32,000 school children, including 13,000 girls, in Badakhshan Province who are participating in the food-for-education program. In Kabul, the Deputy Minister for Education launched the food-for-education program on March 30.*

*WFP is planning an assessment in Chal, Ishkamish, and Arkhar districts in Takhar Province in response to reports of a large returnee population and a deteriorating food security situation.*

*WFP reports a survey carried out in Sarkhurd, Chaprihar, Dehevala, Khogiani, and Rodat districts in Nangarhar Province from March 22-27 indicates that 46 percent of the population requires food assistance to meet its minimum needs for the next three months.*

*WFP reported that two landslides temporarily blocked the road between Faizabad, Badakhshan Province and Rustaq, Takhar Province, and that more landslides are expected due to rain.*

**IDPs and Refugees.** *UNHCR, the AIA, and the NGO community are preparing for the anticipated return home this summer of up to 1.2 million Afghan refugees and IDPs (approximately 400,000 refugees from Pakistan, 400,000 refugees from Iran, and 400,000 IDPs in Afghanistan).*

*According to UNHCR, the Takhtabaig Voluntary Repatriation Center near Peshawar in Pakistan, which began operations March 1, has facilitated the return of more than 184,000 Afghan refugees to their communities of origin. The center is now processing an average of 14,000 returnees a day.*

*On April 3, UNHCR began using mobile teams in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi to register voluntary repatriation applicants. On April 4, the first convoy of more than 250 Afghan refugees left Karachi by bus to return families to their homes around the Panjshir and Kunduz areas of northern Afghanistan. On April 5, another convoy of 550 refugees started home. The refugees were recent arrivals, and had been based at Kuchi camp, about 18 miles east of Karachi. More refugees from the*

*camp, which currently accommodates several thousand Afghans, will follow over the next few days.*

*In Balochistan Province, Pakistan, UNHCR mobile teams are registering Afghan returnee applicants in camps and in the city of Quetta. On April 4, an estimated 1,000 Afghans were registered and departed for home immediately through the Chaman border crossing. The first voluntary repatriation center in Balochistan is scheduled to open on April 8 in Balali, on the road from Quetta to the border.*

*On April 9, UNHCR expects to begin the voluntary assisted repatriation process from Iran. Registration centers have already been set-up in Teheran and elsewhere throughout the country. On April 3, UNHCR, the AIA, and the Government of Iran signed a refugee repatriation agreement in Geneva which lays down the main legal and operational framework for the voluntary return of Afghan refugees in Iran. The Tripartite Agreement, among other issues, formalizes UNHCR's role in monitoring that all returns are voluntary, guarantees UNHCR's free access to refugees and returnees on both sides of the border, stresses the importance of refugees being fully informed of conditions in their home areas before they leave Iran, allows refugees to take home all their belongings and savings, allows spouses and children of Afghan refugees who are not themselves Afghan citizens to legally enter the country with their families, and lays down the AIA's responsibility to ensure that returnees are not discriminated against, harassed, or persecuted upon return home. The AIA also undertakes to facilitate the recovery of lost land or property, and to recognize the legal status of the refugees, including births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and educational and professional qualifications earned in Iran.*

*The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to assist with voluntary IDP returns across Afghanistan. On April 2, IOM transported 300 families from the camps in Mazar-e-Sharif to their villages in Dar-e-Suf, Samangan Province. On April 1, IOM assisted 318 families from the Maslakh Camp near Herat to return to their villages in both Herat and Badghis provinces, bringing the total number of IOM-assisted returns from that camp to 7,145 IDPs. From March 6-31, IOM and UNHCR helped 11,229 IDPs in Kabul return to the Shomali Plain. In all cases, returning families were provided with reintegration assistance, including food, seeds, blankets, tents, and tools.*

*According to UNHCR, the number of Afghans waiting at the Chaman border crossing outside the*

*Killi Faizo transit camp grew from 30,000 to 40,000 over the past week. UNHCR is meeting with elders of the group to discuss options for those interested in returning to their home areas. A third of the waiting Afghans had indicated they would be willing to stay in Afghanistan with additional assistance, while the rest of the group, which includes Kuchi nomads and ethnic Pashtuns, cited drought and ethnic persecution as reasons for wanting to leave Afghanistan. WFP has begun a one-time food distribution of a 15-day food ration to 7,000 families, and the Government of Pakistan will assist the remaining families with donations of rice.*

**Health.** *Data collection for the joint UNICEF and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Nutrition and Mortality Survey, supported by USAID/OFDA, continues in Badghis Province in the west. The survey will eventually be conducted countrywide. Maslakh IDP camp in Herat province will be surveyed beginning on April 5, while Mazar-e-Sharif and Jalalabad will follow at the end of April.*

*UNICEF reports that to date it has sent one million Vitamin C tablets to Ghor Province in western Afghanistan in response to an outbreak of scurvy. Another seven million tablets are in the pipeline. Approximately eight million tablets are needed to provide a four-week treatment course for 260,000 people, 20 percent of whom are children. The NGO Action Contre La Faim is implementing the activity. UNICEF has also provided high protein biscuits to the affected population in Ghor Province.*

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Background.** On October 4, 2001, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by USAID/OFDA, Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Humanitarian Demining Program (State/HDP), the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance is for displaced persons inside Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

On March 26, 2002, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Robert P. Finn issued a disaster declaration due to the earthquake in Baghlan Province. USAID/OFDA responded by providing an additional \$25,000 in Disaster Assistance Authority to ACTED, one of many USAID-funded grantees who are providing humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

### USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

**Personnel.** USAID/OFDA currently has one Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in Kabul to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in the region. USAID/DART members coordinate with the humanitarian relief community and assess the humanitarian situation.

### OTHER USG ASSISTANCE

***New Actions.** State/PRM contributions announced on April 2:*

*\$20 million to UNHCR in support of its programs for repatriation, reintegration, and initial reconstruction on behalf of returning Afghan refugees;*

*\$1.5 million to WFP in support of its provision of food assistance to returning refugees and other vulnerable persons, as well as for full-cost recovery of its operations;*

*\$1 million to IOM in support of winterized shelter and assistance for IDPs and vulnerable persons, as well as for logistics and transportation support for IDPs and refugees;*

*\$1 million to WHO in support of its programs to provide basic health care for returning refugees and IDPs, including immunizations, rebuilding of health clinics, and providing medical supplies;*

*\$1 million to UNOCHA in support of its coordination activities, including maintaining a secure communications network for assistance agencies and providing security and IT management;*

*\$500,000 to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) in support of their effort to develop and maintain an information management system for humanitarian organizations and donors;*

*\$515,304 to the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) in support of a project to identify and coordinate social service delivery to vulnerable Afghans in Peshawar and Quetta, Pakistan;*

*\$376,781 to Mercy Corps in support of its health and capacity building project for vulnerable Afgans in Quetta, Pakistan.*

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
Airlift – Turkmenistan		20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$743,543
Airlift – Turkmenistan		1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
Airlift – Islamabad		35,400 blankets		\$312,350

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
Airlift – Pakistan		5 health kits		\$29,415
Airlift – Turkmenabad		5 health kits		\$33,923
Airlift – Uzbekistan		350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
Airlift – Turkmenistan		10,000 kitchen sets and 20,000 blankets		\$473,400
Airlift – Mazar-e-Sharif		37,600 blankets for UNICEF		\$65,000
Airlift – Turkmenistan		1,000 winterized tents		\$167,000
ACTED		Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
ACTED		IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
ACTED		Livelihoods, agriculture, emergency rehab	Takhar, Baghlan, Shamali, Kabul, and Faryab.	\$750,000
CARE		Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,537,035
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)		Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,087
Church World Service		Transport of non-food items		\$49,902
Concern Worldwide		Distribution of seeds & tools, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, income generation activities	Badakshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Bamiyan provinces	\$1,737,318
Concern Worldwide		Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343
Field Support		Operational support for DARTs in Central Asia Region		\$1,339,456
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)		Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
FAO		Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
FAO		Manual locust eradication program	North	\$260,000
FAO		Security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, & spring seed distribution	All	\$2,500,000
FOCUS / Aga Khan		Seed multiplication, water supply rehabilitation, and complementary food distribution	Bamiyan, Baghlan, and Balkh	\$1,436,134
GOAL		Food, shelter, water, sanitation, winterization	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$5,500,000
GOAL		Emergency agricultural, potable water and sanitation rehabilitation, and shelter repair	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$1,000,000
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)		Seed multiplication, technical assistance for seed procurement and regulation	All	\$2,525,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh provinces	\$562,313
IOM		Distribution of charcoal for cooking and heating fuel	Herat, Kunduz, and Faryab	\$1,069,760

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
International Medical Corps (IMC)		Primary health care	Herat	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan	\$3,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)		Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
IRC		Medical, public health, education & self-help programs in camps and urban settings	Balkh, Ghor	\$3,250,104
International Resource Group (IRG)		Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy Corps		Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps		Rehabilitation of wells & agriculture infrastructure, seed multiplication	Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Takhar, Kunduz & Baghlan	\$3,000,308
UNOCHA		Coordination	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
UNCHS (Habitat)		Cash-for-work rehabilitation of public areas, solid waste removal	Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif	\$382,850
Save the Children (SC)/US		Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
SC/US		Spot reconstruction, cash-for-work, and medical clinic rehabilitation	Faryab, Sar-e-Pul	\$3,262,312
Shelter for Life		Cash-for-work road reconstruction & emergency home repair for returning IDPs	Kunduz & Takhar	\$1,294,550
Solidarites		Rehabilitation, agricultural revitalization	Balkh, Bamiyan, Samangan	\$1,739,115
World Food Program (WFP)		Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000
WFP		Emergency road repair	Turkmen border	\$300,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center		\$2,000,000
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$84,863,726</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan		\$2,000,000
WFP		31,050 MT Lentils and vegetable oil		\$25,418,500
WFP		36,000 MT Wheat		\$15,900,000
WFP		72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
WFP		24,320 MT Food commodities		\$18,600,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$100,473,500</b>



USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OTI</b>				
	Voice of America	Radio program		\$187,820
	IOM	HEAR bulletin and radios		\$1,500,000
	IOM	Community reconstruction		\$8,095,631
	Internews	Media/journalist training		\$998,720
	RONCO	Small grants/operations support		\$3,000,000
	UNDP	UNDP Trust Fund in support of the Interim Afghan Administration		500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OTI.....</b>				<b>\$14,282,171</b>
<b>STATE/HDP</b>				
	HALO Trust	Demining program		\$3,300,000
	UNICEF	Mine awareness program		\$700,000
	UN Mine Action Program	Demining equipment		\$1,000,000
	RONCO	UXO experts		\$2,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 State/HDP .....</b>				<b>\$7,000,000</b>
<b>USDA</b>				
	WFP	40,000 MT of Food commodities		\$22,500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USDA .....</b>				<b>\$22,500,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM **</b>				
	ICRC	Emergency Appeal		\$13,500,000
	ICMC	Support for Afghans in Pakistan		\$515,304
	IFRC	Emergency Appeal		\$5,000,000
	IOM	Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
	IOM	Support for Refugees and IDPs		\$1,000,000
	IRC	Operational Support		231,248
	Mercy Corps	Support for Afghans in Pakistan		\$376,781
	Mercy Corps	Operational support		\$162,775
	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Project Management Information System		\$160,000
	UNDP	Information System		\$500,000
	UNOCHA	Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,125,000
	UNOCHA	Coordination of activities (communications, IT, security)		\$1,000,000
	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Special Program for Afghanistan		\$600,000
	UNHCR	Emergency Appeal		\$30,000,000
	UNHCR	Support for returning Afghan refugees		\$20,000,000
	UNICEF	Back-to-school campaign		\$2,000,000
	UNICEF	Emergency Relief		\$4,000,000
	WFP	Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
	WFP	Operations/Logistics Support		\$1,500,000
	WHO	Basic health for returning Afghans		\$1,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 State/PRM .....</b>				<b>\$89,671,108</b>
<b>DOD</b>				
	Airdrop of 2,423,700 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)			\$50,897,769

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>Total FY 2002 DOD .....</b>				<b>\$50,897,769</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Afghanistan.....</b>				<b>\$369,688,274</b>

<b>TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
CARE		Purchase and distribution of winter wheat to 36,000 people		\$998,180
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA.....</b>				<b>\$998,180</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		35,000 MT wheat flour		20,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP.....</b>				<b>\$20,000,000</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan.....</b>				<b>\$20,998,180</b>

<b>FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*.....</b>	<b>\$183,107,625</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002.....</b>	<b>\$369,688,274</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001.....</b>	<b>\$552,795,899</b>
<b>Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001.....</b>	<b>\$67,210,000</b>
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
<b>Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002 .....</b>	<b>\$88,208,180</b>

\*Note: Detailed breakdowns of FY 2001 and FY 2002 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region situation reports.

\*\*Note: State/PRM contributions include funding obligated to international organizations and NGOs, as well as new contributions to UN partners announced on April 2.

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Bernd McConnell  
Director, Central Asia Task Force

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)  
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

***CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency***

Situation Report #26, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

March 29, 2002

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

**BACKGROUND**

Two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men. A devastating regional drought compounded the crisis, drying up wells, parching agricultural land, killing off livestock, collapsing rural economies, and eventually exhausting the coping mechanisms of many ordinary Afghans, forcing them to leave their homes in search of food and water.

International relief agencies, with support from the United States (U.S.), have long been active in providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, even during the restrictive years of the Taliban. On October 7, 2001, a U.S.-led campaign against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces began, and by December 2001, the Taliban had collapsed. The new Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) was sworn in on December 22, 2001, increasing humanitarian access to the country and beginning the process of reconstruction. Tens of thousands of refugee and internally displaced families have started to return to their homes to assist in the rebuilding. USAID/DART/Islamabad, which began its emergency coordination work in response to the regional drought in June 2001, continues to assess the humanitarian needs of vulnerable Afghans, and to monitor the relief programs of its implementing partners.

**Afghanistan: Numbers Affected**

<b>Total population</b> (CIA Factbook) .....	26,813,057
<b>Refugees Since January 1, 2002</b> (UNHCR)	
Pakistan .....	60,000
Iran .....	unknown
<b>Old Caseload Refugees</b> (UNHCR)	
Pakistan .....	2,000,000
Iran .....	1,500,000
<b>Internally Displaced</b> (UNDP/OCHA)	
Total as of February 20, 2002 .....	920,000
north and northeast .....	500,000
south and west .....	420,000

**Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002** (UNHCR)

Pakistan (Total) .....	280,000
Pakistan (spontaneous) .....	180,000
Pakistan (voluntary assisted since March 1) .....	100,000
Iran (spontaneous) .....	50,000

**Internally Displaced Returns Since January 1, 2002** (IOM)

To Kabul (spontaneous) .....	unknown
To Shomali Plain (voluntary assisted) .....	22,500
To northeast (spontaneous) .....	117,000
From Herat (voluntary assisted) .....	8,000
From Mazar-e-Sharif (voluntary assisted) .....	20,000

**Total FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Assistance to Afghanistan\*** .....\$526,838,814

**Total FY 2001/2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan** .....\$88,208,180

**CURRENT SITUATION**

**Overview.** Organizations operating under existing USAID grants are redirecting assistance to help meet the needs of the victims of an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale which struck in Nahrin District, Baghlan Province on the evening of March 25. The United Nations (U.N.) Security Council voted unanimously on March 29 to establish the U.N. Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is concerned about reports of harassment of relief workers in northern, western, and eastern regions of Afghanistan.

According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), there are tentative signs that the drought may be easing in the north, while rainfall remains below normal in the south. According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 100,000 Afghans have been assisted in returning home from Pakistan since March 1. While internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to return home in all parts of the country, a smaller number of new IDPs are reportedly fleeing continued drought or minority persecution. The World Health Organization (WHO) is investigating a suspected meningitis outbreak in the Waras District of Bamiyan Province, where 82 people have died.

**Political/Military.** *On March 29, the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to establish the U.N. Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), following the recommendation of Secretary General Kofi Annan. UNAMA would fulfill all of the tasks entrusted to the U.N. under last year's Bonn Agreement. The mission would also promote national reconciliation, while managing all U.N. humanitarian activities in coordination with the current AIA and successor administrations.*

*The anticipated return this week of Afghanistan's exiled king, Zahir Shah, was delayed due to security concerns. The king is expected to return to his homeland once adequate security measures can be taken to protect him. Several thousand supporters of Zahir Shah marched in the southern city of Kandahar on March 27 calling for his speedy return from exile.*

*The U.S. and France officially informed the U.N. Security Council on March 26 that the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) would not expand its geographic mandate beyond Kabul. The U.S. announced on March 25 its intention to help train an Afghan national army, a process estimated to take up to 18 months to complete.*

*The new U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan was sworn in at a ceremony on March 22, and said his appointment demonstrates the U.S.'s commitment to Afghanistan. Robert Patrick Finn, a former U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan, took the oath of office at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.*

**Security.** *UNOCHA is concerned about reports of harassment of relief workers in the northern, western, and eastern regions of Afghanistan. Both local and international workers of NGOs and UN agencies have been affected.*

*Factional fighting has contributed to insecurity around the cities of Gardez, Khost, Kunduz, and Mazar-e-Sharif. Fighting has also been reported in the northwest and in the Kandahar area. Armed thieves have reportedly entered IDP camps and robbed IDPs in the vicinity of Herat.*

*Coalition forces reported an al-Qaeda plot to car bomb or kidnap soldiers from the ISAF based in Kabul. Norwegian soldiers and an ISAF soldier reportedly came under fire in northern Afghanistan and in Gardez, respectively.*

**Earthquake.** *On March 25, at 7:26 pm local time, an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck Baghlan Province in northeastern Afghanistan,*

*approximately 100 miles north of the capital Kabul. The initial earthquake was followed by a series of strong aftershocks, including one of 5.0 on March 25 at 8:15 pm local time, a 5.0 aftershock at 2:15 am local time March 26, and a 5.6 on March 27 at 1:22 pm local time. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake and its aftershocks occurred at a shallow depth of 8-10 kilometers, increasing the likelihood of damage to structures in the affected area.*

*According to the AIA, the estimated number of deaths decreased from initial reports, as rescue workers provided more accurate information from the field. The most recent estimates from UNOCHA indicate 600 confirmed dead, with that figure expected to rise to between 800 and 1,000 people dead once all areas have been reached. Approximately 500 people have been treated for injuries, and it is estimated that up to 20,000 families (100,000 people) may have had their houses damaged or have been otherwise negatively affected. The area worst affected was Nahrin District (estimated population: 82,000), Baghlan Province where the epicenters of the earthquakes were located. Reports indicate that nearly all of old town Nahrin and half of new town Nahrin were destroyed, with 42 outlying villages on the Nahrin plain affected. Aerial reconnaissance over a radius of 15 km from Nahrin City indicates 25 percent of buildings totally collapsed, and another 60 percent with serious damage. Neighboring Burka District was also affected, with half of the homes in eight villages destroyed, impacting 800 families. In the Panjshir Valley, six villages with 3,000 people were completely destroyed, and in Lakankhel District an estimated 70 percent of homes in seven villages were destroyed, affecting 935 families. The region at the epicenter of the earthquake is one heavily impacted by the ongoing drought, with an estimated 80 percent of the population already receiving relief supplies because of vulnerability to malnutrition. The area was also on the conflict line of the civil war and had generated a number of IDPs. The relative inaccessibility of the region, landslide-induced road blocks, the danger of landmines left over from the civil war, and rainy weather which began March 29 are all factors which complicate damage assessment and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.*

*Organizations operating under existing USAID grants are redirecting assistance to help meet the needs of the earthquake victims: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is sending a health team, as well as tents, blankets, and adequate supplies of sugar, beans, and vegetable oil to feed 4,750 families (23,750 people) for six months to Baghlan Province.*

*Concern Worldwide is sending shelter supplies and household kits. USAID/OFDA partner GOAL dispatched ten 3,000-gallon water bladders. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is providing blankets and fuel and providing ground transportation for relief commodities. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is providing water and sanitation assistance under an existing USAID grant. USAID/OFDA, in response to a disaster declaration issued by U.S. Ambassador Finn, provided a grant to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), who had an office in Nahrin and began responding immediately. USAID/OFDA is also airlifting 37,500 blankets to UNICEF in Mazar-e-Sharif. UNOCHA, which received over \$3 million from USAID this year to coordinate humanitarian relief, established a coordination cell in Kabul and a base of operations in Nahrin.*

*UNOCHA reported on March 28 that the immediate needs of the earthquake-affected population are being met. Food distribution systems and medical assistance in Nahrin are adequate, and 15,000 tents and 100,000 blankets have been distributed or are en route. An assessment of the availability of potable water is underway. Trucks carrying relief supplies, medical assistance, engineers, mine clearance experts, and logistics teams have arrived in Nahrin, after a team of U.S. engineers unblocked the Salang Tunnel on the road from Kabul. No further supply flights to Kabul airport are planned, though helicopter flights will continue to transport essential equipment. Several U.S. helicopters were delivering relief supplies from Bagram airfield north of Kabul.*

**Food Aid and Logistics.** *According to UNOCHA, FAO believes the drought may be easing in the north of the country, with rain levels this year better than last year in all parts of the country except the south. According to FAO, there have been normal rainfall levels in both the north and west. However, FAO reports that less than one-half an inch of rain fell in Kandahar during the "rainy" month of February. Half of the fruit trees in the south have been lost over the course of the drought, and wheat crops fed by rain, not irrigation, have disappeared completely from six southern provinces. UNOCHA cautioned, however, that it is too early to tell whether the precipitation trend will continue, and what the impact will be on the prospect for continued drought.*

*Since October 2001, WFP, with support from USAID, has delivered 376,657 MT of food into Afghanistan, of which 309,797 MT has been distributed throughout the country, assisting some 6.6 million food-insecure Afghans.*

**IDPs and Refugees.** *UNHCR, the AIA, and the NGO community are preparing for the anticipated return home this summer of up to 1.2 million Afghan refugees and IDPs (approximately 400,000 refugees from Pakistan, 400,000 refugees from Iran, and 400,000 IDPs in Afghanistan). According to UNHCR, the Takhtabaig Voluntary Repatriation Center near Peshawar in Pakistan, which began operations March 1, has facilitated the return of more than 100,000 Afghan refugees to their communities of origin. The center is now processing an average of 10,000 returnees a day, after having reinforced its staff for registration and verification, hired and trained 75 additional people, and assigned staff to two working shifts. UNHCR reported that nearly half of the returnees are going to the eastern province of Nangarhar, a quarter to Kabul Province, and more than 20,000 to eastern and central Afghanistan. UNHCR plans to open a second voluntary repatriation center April 1 in Bajaur Agency at Nawa Pass in Pakistan, and establish mobile teams to process more than 12,000 refugee families in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.*

*On April 9, UNHCR expects to begin the voluntary assisted repatriation process from Iran. Registration centers have already been set-up in Teheran and elsewhere throughout the country. UNHCR and the Iranian authorities have been working to prepare facilities at the Dogharoun and Milak border crossing points. Afghans participating in the voluntary repatriation initiative will receive transport up to the frontier with Afghanistan. UNHCR will give returnees a cash stipend to finance their transport homewards, plus the same family reintegration package already being distributed to Afghans repatriating from Pakistan.*

*UNOCHA reports that assistance will be phased out to IDPs who have remained on the Pyanj River islands along the Afghan-Tajik border since a September 2000 Taliban offensive, while UNHCR is assisting with voluntary returns. Of the estimated 12,000 Afghans living on two islands in the river, all 2,000 of those living on the island known as Site 13 have returned to their homes in the northern Afghan province of Konduz, only 15 km across the border. Others living on the second island, known as Site 9, intend to stay permanently on the island where they have built houses, and will travel to and from their villages for visits. MERLIN will continue to provide health care.*

*On March 27, IOM began a three-day operation to return 1,200 more displaced families from camps in*

and around Mazar-e-Sharif. On the first day, IOM-hired trucks transported a group of 300 families from Mazar to Dehi, in the Dar-e-Suf District of Samangan Province. In Dehi, the Czech NGO People in Need Foundation was providing returnees with overnight food and accommodation. The second leg of their journey will be carried out with the assistance of some 3,000 donkeys. Each family will be given three animals to transport the reintegration assistance, which includes 150 kgs of wheat, an agricultural kit of seeds and tools, plastic sheets, jerry cans, blankets and mats. The IOM office in Mazar-e-Sharif has assisted more than 12,000 IDPs to return home over the past months.

IRC reported the return of some 2,530 IDP families (12,650 people) from the Mazar-e-Sharif area to 17 villages in Alborz in Balkh Province. UNOCHA reported that to date, some 4,200 people have returned from Herat to Qala-i-Naw, Badghis Province under an ongoing assisted return program. In Faisabad, Badakhshan Province an unspecified number of IDPs are registering to return to their home villages.

There are reports of new IDPs leaving their areas of origin due to drought and minority persecution. There are some 3,000 new IDPs in a camp in Jalalabad, according to UNOCHA. UNOCHA also reported that some 368 IDP families (roughly 2,300 people) have arrived in Herat since the beginning of March. The new arrivals are from Ghor and Faryab provinces. The IDPs from Ghor Province are mainly leaving because of drought, while most of the IDPs from Faryab Province are reportedly Pashtuns fleeing persecution. There have been reports of intimidation directed at Pashtuns in Herat as well, according to UNOCHA. UNOCHA believes that some of the Pashtun population arriving in Herat are only transiting there, and intend to continue on southwards to Farah Province.

According to UNHCR, more than 30,000 Afghans are awaiting registration and entrance to Pakistan outside the Killi Faizo transit camp on the Afghan border, where there are inadequate basic services and makeshift shelters. A third of the waiting Afghans indicated they would be willing to stay in Afghanistan with additional assistance, while the rest of the group, which includes Kuchi nomads and ethnic Pashtuns, cited drought and ethnic persecution as reasons for wanting to leave Afghanistan.

**Health.** The World Health Organization (WHO) reported on March 26 that Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has reported a suspected meningitis outbreak

in the Waras District of southern Bamiyan Province that has killed 82 people. WHO is investigating and has not confirmed that the disease is indeed meningitis.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Background.** On October 4, 2001, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by USAID/OFDA, Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Demining Program, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance is for displaced persons inside Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

## USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

**Personnel.** USAID/OFDA currently has one Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in Pakistan to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in the region. USAID/DART members are traveling into Afghanistan to coordinate with the humanitarian relief community and assess the humanitarian situation.

**New Actions.** On March 26, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Robert P. Finn issued a disaster declaration due to the earthquake in Baghlan Province. On March 26, USAID/OFDA responded by providing an additional \$25,000 in Disaster Assistance Authority to ACTED, who is one of many USAID-funded grantees providing immediate humanitarian assistance to the affected population. Relief commodities, such as shelter material,

*blankets, mattresses, water containers, clothing, fuel, and food already in country as part of the \$150 million in humanitarian assistance provided by USAID since October 2001 are being directed to the affected area. USAID-funded grantees active in providing earthquake relief include ACTED, FOCUS, GOAL, Concern, IOM, the UNOCHA, UNICEF, and WFP. USAID/OFDA, working with the U.S. Mission in Kabul, the Afghan Interim Authority, and NGO partners in the region, will continue to assess damage and needs as a result of the earthquakes.*

#### **USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE**

***New Actions.** USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is contributing 31,050 MT of P.L. 480 Title II food assistance, valued at \$25,418,500, to the WFP's Food for Civil Servants Program in Afghanistan. The food contribution, which includes lentils and vegetable oil, will be used to supplement the salaries of the approximately 270,000 civil servants in Afghanistan over the next six months.*

#### **OTHER USG ASSISTANCE**

***New Actions.** The U.S. Department of State's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs (HDP) is providing \$3.3 million to the NGO HALO Trust to support more than 2,000 Afghan deminers working in its programs. In addition, the HDP purchased demining equipment worth \$3 million and donated it to the UN Mine Action Program in Afghanistan. The HDP also supports mine awareness and risk education through a \$700,000 grant to UNICEF. HDP is providing experts in unexploded ordinances (UXO) through a \$2 million contract with RONCO, an U.S. consulting firm.*

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$743,543
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
	Airlift – Islamabad	35,400 blankets		\$312,350
	Airlift – Pakistan	5 health kits		\$29,415
	Airlift – Turkmenabad	5 health kits		\$33,923
	Airlift – Uzbekistan	350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	10,000 kitchen sets and 20,000 blankets		\$473,400
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	1,000 winterized tents		\$167,000
	ACTED	Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
	ACTED	IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
	ACTED	Livelihoods, agriculture, emergency rehab	Takhar, Baghlan, Shamali, Kabul, and Faryab.	\$750,000
	CARE	Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,537,035
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,087
	Church World Service	Transport of non-food items		\$49,902
	Concern Worldwide	Distribution of seeds & tools, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, income generation activities	Badakshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Bamiyan provinces	\$1,737,318
	Concern Worldwide	Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343
	Field Support	Operational support for DARTs in Central Asia Region		\$1,339,456
	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
	FAO	Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
	FAO	Manual locust eradication program	North	\$260,000
	FAO	Security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, & spring seed distribution	All	\$2,500,000
	FOCUS / Aga Khan	Seed multiplication, water supply rehabilitation, and complementary food distribution	Bamiyan, Baghlan, and Balkh	\$1,436,134



USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
GOAL		Food, shelter, water, sanitation, winterization	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$5,500,000
GOAL		Emergency agricultural, potable water and sanitation rehabilitation, and shelter repair	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$1,000,000
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)		Seed multiplication, technical assistance for seed procurement and regulation	All	\$2,525,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh provinces	\$562,313
IOM		Distribution of charcoal for cooking and heating fuel	Herat, Kunduz, and Faryab	\$1,069,760
International Medical Corps (IMC)		Primary health care	Herat	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan	\$3,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)		Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
IRC		Medical, public health, education & self-help programs in camps and urban settings	Balkh, Ghor	\$3,250,104
International Resource Group (IRG)		Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy Corps		Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps		Rehabilitation of wells & agriculture infrastructure, seed multiplication	Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Takhar, Kunduz & Baghlan	\$3,000,308
UNOCHA		Coordination	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
UNCHS (Habitat)		Cash-for-work rehabilitation of public areas, solid waste removal	Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif	\$382,850
Save the Children (SC)/US		Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
SC/US		Spot reconstruction, cash-for-work, and medical clinic rehabilitation	Faryab, Sar-e-Pul	\$3,262,312
Shelter for Life		Cash-for-work road reconstruction & emergency home repair for returning IDPs	Kunduz & Takhar	\$1,294,550
Solidarites		Rehabilitation, agricultural revitalization	Balkh, Bamiyan, Samangan	\$1,739,115
World Food Program (WFP)		Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
WFP		Emergency road repair	Turkmen border	\$300,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center		\$2,000,000
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$84,798,726</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan		\$2,000,000
WFP		31,050 MT Lentils and vegetable oil		\$25,418,500
WFP		36,000 MT Wheat		\$15,900,000
WFP		72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
WFP		24,320 MT Food commodities		\$18,600,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$100,473,500</b>
<b>USAID/OTI</b>				
Voice of America		Radio program		\$187,820
IOM		HEAR bulletin and radios		\$1,500,000
IOM		Community reconstruction		\$8,095,631
Internews		Media/journalist training		\$998,720
RONCO		Small grants/operations support		\$3,000,000
UNDP		UNDP Trust Fund in support of the Interim Afghan Administration		500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OTI.....</b>				<b>\$14,282,171</b>
<b>STATE/HDP</b>				
HALO Trust		Demining program		\$3,300,000
UNICEF		Mine awareness program		\$700,000
UN Mine Action Program		Demining equipment		\$1,000,000
RONCO		UXO experts		\$2,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 State/HDP .....</b>				<b>\$7,000,000</b>
<b>USDA</b>				
WFP		40,000 MT of Food commodities		\$22,500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USDA .....</b>				<b>\$22,500,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>				
ICRC		Emergency Appeal		\$13,500,000
IFRC		Emergency Appeal		\$5,000,000
IOM		Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
IRC		Operational Support		231,248
Mercy Corps		Operational support		\$162,775
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)		Project Management Information System		\$160,000
UNOCHA		Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,125,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)		Special Program for Afghanistan		\$600,000
WFP		Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
UNHCR		Emergency Appeal		\$30,000,000
UNICEF		Back-to-school campaign		\$2,000,000
UNICEF		Emergency Relief		\$4,000,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>Total FY 2002 State/PRM .....</b>				<b>\$63,779,023</b>
<b>DOD</b>				
Airdrop of 2,423,700 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)				\$50,897,769
<b>Total FY 2002 DOD .....</b>				<b>\$50,897,769</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Afghanistan.....</b>				<b>\$343,731,189</b>

<b>TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
CARE		Purchase and distribution of winter wheat to 36,000 people		\$998,180
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA.....</b>				<b>\$998,180</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		35,000 MT wheat flour		20,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP.....</b>				<b>\$20,000,000</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan.....</b>				<b>\$20,998,180</b>

<b>FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*.....</b>	<b>\$183,107,625</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002 .....</b>	<b>\$343,731,189</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001.....</b>	<b>\$526,838,814</b>
<b>Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001.....</b>	<b>\$67,210,000</b>
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
<b>Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002 .....</b>	<b>\$88,208,180</b>

\*Note: detailed breakdowns of FY 2001 and FY 2002 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region situation reports.

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Bernd McConnell  
Director, Central Asia Task Force

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
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CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

***CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency***

Situation Report #25, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

March 22, 2002

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

**BACKGROUND**

Prior to September 2001, two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Significant local and national resources were directed to the war effort. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, which controlled as much as 90 percent of the country, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men.

After September 11, 2001, fears of a reprisal to terrorist attacks against the United States triggered population movements in Afghanistan, as well as a complete exodus of international relief staff, greatly complicating humanitarian assistance. Nonetheless, assistance programs continued even after October 7, when the U.S.-led campaign against the Taliban and al-Qaeda began. The Taliban began to collapse in November, abandoning Mazar-e-Sharif on November 9, Kabul on November 13, and finally their Kandahar stronghold on December 7. The new Afghan Interim Administration (AIA) was sworn in on December 22. The demise of the Taliban has allowed increased humanitarian access to Afghanistan, and relief agencies re-established operations within the country. USAID/DART/Islamabad has been making an ongoing series of trips into Afghanistan to assess the situation and meet with implementing partners.

**Afghanistan: Numbers Affected**

<b>Total population</b> (CIA Factbook) .....	26,813,057
<b>Refugees Since January 1, 2002</b> (UNHCR)	
Pakistan .....	60,000
Iran .....	unknown
<b>Old Caseload Refugees</b> (UNHCR)	
Pakistan .....	2,000,000
Iran .....	1,500,000
<b>Internally Displaced</b> (UNDP/OCHA)	
Total as of February 20, 2002 .....	920,000
north and northeast .....	500,000
south and west .....	420,000

**Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002** (UNHCR)

Pakistan (Total) .....	260,000
Pakistan (spontaneous) .....	180,000
Pakistan (voluntary assisted since March 1) ...	80,000
Iran (spontaneous) .....	50,000

**Internally Displaced Returns Since January 1, 2002** (IOM)

To Kabul .....	unknown
To Shomali Plain (voluntary assisted) .....	29,200
To northeast (spontaneous) .....	117,000
From Herat (voluntary assisted) .....	8,000
From Mazar-e-Sharif (voluntary assisted) .....	20,000

**Total FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Assistance to Afghanistan\* .....**\$494,420,314

**Total FY 2001/2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan .....**\$88,208,180

**CURRENT SITUATION**

**Overview.** *United Nation (UN) Secretary General Kofi Annan proposed the establishment of an UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Brahimi commented on improving security in Kabul, and worrisome reports of minority persecution in the northern provinces. Since October 2001, the World Food Program (WFP) has delivered 370,000 metric tons (MT) of food into Afghanistan. This week WFP re-opened 80 bakeries in Mazar-e-Sharif and increased capacity at 21 female-run bakeries in Kabul to help feed those children returning to school March 23.*

*The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 80,000 Afghans have been assisted in returning home from Pakistan since March 1. Voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran is expected to begin in early April. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is coordinating the return this week of more than 15,000 IDPs from Mazar-e-Sharif to the Alborz mountains in Balkh Province. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has reported that five thousand people are currently being treated for scurvy in Taywara, Ghor Province.*

**Political/Military.** On March 21, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan proposed in a report to the General Assembly and Security Council that the UN formally establish a mission to Afghanistan, to be called the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). UNAMA would fulfill all of the tasks entrusted to the UN under last year's Bonn Agreement. The mission would also promote national reconciliation, while managing all UN humanitarian activities in coordination with the Afghan Interim Administration (AIA) and successor administrations. The proposed mission, to be led by UN Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, would be structured with two pillars: one for political affairs and the other for relief, recovery and reconstruction.

On March 15, Germany signed an agreement with AIA Chairman Karzai to lead the effort to reconstruct a national police force for Afghanistan. The program will aim to retrain about 30,000 Afghan ex-fighters as policemen, according to news reports.

**Security.** On March 20, UN Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi said that security concerns have been diminishing in Kabul, not increasing, since the December installation of the interim administration. However, Brahimi did express concern over allegations of persecution of ethnic Pashtuns in the north of the country.

The UN Mine Action Center for Afghanistan reports that four teams of 34 deminers worked on several hilltop locations around Kabul to clear away recently discovered rockets, missiles, and unexploded ordnance before Afghan New Year celebrations on March 21.

According to wire reports, two men with hand grenades were arrested March 15 by local police outside UNHCR's compound in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. The men were said to be upset over UNHCR's treatment of refugees. The incident occurred two days prior to a grenade attack on a church in the diplomatic quarter of Islamabad that killed five people.

**Earthquake.** On March 3, an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck Afghanistan. The deep epicenter of the earthquake, 195 kilometers below the Hindu Kush region, resulted in shocks felt throughout Central Asia. The areas most affected by the earthquake were Samangan, Takhar, Baghlan, and Badakhshan provinces.

According to the UN Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC), an International Security Assistance Force

(ISAF) team visited the earthquake-affected village of Sar-e-Kunda, Samangan Province, where a massive landslide had blocked the river and caused flooding. A geologist on the team reported that it appeared unlikely that more of the overhanging cliff would fall in the near future, although falls were possible further along the road that goes through the area. The team reported that channels dug through the landslide-created dam in the river needed to be deepened to prevent any further flooding, and that excavation machinery and explosives would be required.

**Food Aid and Logistics.** Since October 2001, WFP has delivered 370,000 MT of food into Afghanistan, of which 305,000 MT has been distributed throughout the country, assisting some 6.6 million food-insecure Afghans.

WFP reported that it is conducting helicopter assessments from Herat. Assessments of Taywara District in Ghor Province were launched to investigate the food security, health and nutritional situation on the ground. The assessments have since been expanded into Pasaband District. WFP also reported that it would be transporting staff to affected areas in these districts. In Faryab Province, WFP has completed assessments in Almar and Shirin Tagab Districts, according to UNOCHA. WFP found that residents in these areas remain vulnerable and in need of food aid. In addition, some 350 families in Shirin Tagab have been displaced by inter-ethnic tensions, according to UNOCHA.

WFP reported that it has re-opened 80 bakeries that will help feed 20,000 families (100,000 people) in Mazar-e-Sharif. The bakeries had been closed since October 2001. According to WFP, the bakeries employ 250 women, and twenty of the bakeries are female-run. The beneficiary population includes 40 percent of Mazar's most vulnerable residents, according to WFP. In Kabul, WFP is increasing the capacity of its existing 21 female-run bakeries in order to support 5,000 school children during the academic year that begins March 23. WFP also plans to open new women's bakeries in Kabul that will employ up to 3,500 additional women.

On the Shomali Plain, WFP reported that it is providing 900 MT of food for 6,000 returnee families from the Panjshir Valley and Kabul to support a three-month ration of wheat for each family. WFP is also supporting refugees returning from Pakistan to the central highlands, by providing three-month rations at distribution points in Ghazni, Logar, Kabul, Bamiyan, and Parwan Provinces.

UNJLC reported that the unpaved airstrip at Chagcharan, the provincial capital of Ghor, could not continue to support flights beyond the end of March. UNJLC is looking for a partner to carry out repairs.

**IDPs and Refugees.** UNHCR, the AIA, and the NGO community are preparing for the anticipated return home this summer of up to 1.2 million Afghan refugees and IDPs (approximately 400,000 refugees from Pakistan, 400,000 refugees from Iran, and 400,000 IDPs in Afghanistan). According to UNHCR, the Takhtabaig Voluntary Repatriation Center near Peshawar in Pakistan, which began operations March 1, has facilitated the return of 80,000 Afghan refugees to their communities of origin. The center was temporarily closed during the holidays at the end of this week due to security concerns and overcrowding. The center is expected to reopen shortly after work to re-organize and enlarge the facility is complete.

UNJLC reports that voluntary repatriation of refugees from Iran to Afghanistan is expected to start in early April, in consultation and agreement with the Iranian government through its Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA). Assistance to the returnees inside Iran will include transport to the border, most likely by BAFIA, using private contractors. Two exit border stations have been identified where returnees will be provided a travel kit. Transport from the border to Herat, where the returnees will receive a resettlement package, will be provided by UNHCR. IOM will make transport arrangements from Herat to other destinations inside Afghanistan.

UNOCHA reports that UNHCR and IOM are preparing for the return of Afghan IDPs camped on the "islands" between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The return, which will be facilitated by UNHCR and IOM, will offer the IDPs the possibility of free return back to their place of origin. Organizations that are currently providing assistance on the islands will discontinue their activities and food distributions there will be phased out.

According to the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the largest, single, organized return of IDPs to their villages began this week in northern Afghanistan. Approximately 3,330 IDP families (16,650 people) are being assisted in returning to 17 villages in Alborz, Chintal District, Balkh Province. IOM is coordinating the return from Camp 65, near Mazar-e-Sharif, to the mountain villages, which were

abandoned due to drought. USAID/OFDA-funded grantees IOM and IRC are providing the returnees with resettlement packages, including seeds, food, and non-food items. IRC is now conducting in-depth assessments into water/sanitation, health, agriculture, livestock, infrastructure, as well as social issues and protection.

According to IRC, an additional registration has been carried out for the return of some 1,000 IDP families (5,000 people) from Mazar-e-Sharif to Aq Kupruk, Sholgara District in southern Balkh Province. IOM reports that returns have begun from Bagh-e-Sherkat, a camp of 3,600 families (18,000 people) near Kunduz City.

Samaritan's Purse reports that it is assisting 55 IDP families (275 people) from Mile 46 and Makaki Camps on the Afghan-Iranian border in Nimruz Province to return to their homes in Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province. Working in cooperation with UNHCR, this is the first assisted return in this area.

IOM reports that new IDPs continue to trickle into the camps in Herat Province. These movements are expected to continue in both the north and west of the country, as people living in isolated pockets of need decide to leave their villages. IOM believes the drought-related emergency, and continuing displacement, will last at least until the middle of next year.

**Health.** A World Health Organization nutritionist is leading a team to investigate unconfirmed reports of a possible outbreak of scurvy north of Ghor's provincial capital Chagcharan, in addition to the previously reported cases in the southern district of Taywara. UNOCHA has reported that 5,000 people are currently being treated for scurvy in Taywara. UNICEF has distributed 252,000 doses of Vitamin C in Taywara and neighboring Pasaband districts through its partner Action Contre la Faim. UNICEF has also delivered 3,760 packets of high protein biscuits in these areas .

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Background.** On October 4, President George W. Bush announced a \$320 million assistance program for Afghanistan. Funding will support assistance to Afghans both inside and outside Afghanistan's borders, with support for food and a variety of other relief needs.

On October 4, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by USAID/OFDA, Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Demining Program, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance is for displaced persons inside Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

## USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

**Personnel.** USAID/OFDA currently has one Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in Pakistan to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in the region. USAID/DART members are traveling into Afghanistan to coordinate with the humanitarian relief community and assess the humanitarian situation.

**New Actions.** USAID/OFDA has funded a \$260,000 grant to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to support a coordinated program of manual locust eradication in the northern provinces of Afghanistan. Up to 20,000 Afghan volunteers will assist in the eradication effort.

## OTHER USG ASSISTANCE

**New Actions.** USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) is providing \$8,095,631 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support community reconstruction in Afghanistan. The program goal is to build citizen confidence in the progress of political development, to empower citizens to address basic community needs, and to

*build an alliance between legitimate government structures and the citizen. USAID/OTI is also funding Internews with \$998,720 to support media and journalist training, and is providing \$3,000,000 to RONCO for small grants and operational support.*

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agreed this week to contribute some 40,000 MT of food commodities to the WFP in Afghanistan, including wheat and oil, with a total value of \$22.5 million.*

*The U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Migration, and Refugees (PRM) has contributed \$2,000,000 to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) back-to-school campaign in Afghanistan. The back-to-school campaign will support the Afghan Ministry of Education's plan to provide Afghan girls and female teachers the opportunity to return to school for the first time in five years. It will also ensure that at least 1.5 million Afghan children and 60,000 teachers participate in the new school year, which begins March 23.*

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
Airlift – Turkmenistan		20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$743,543
Airlift – Turkmenistan		1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
Airlift – Islamabad		35,400 blankets		\$312,350
Airlift – Pakistan		5 health kits		\$29,415
Airlift – Turkmenabad		5 health kits		\$33,923
Airlift – Uzbekistan		350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
Airlift – Turkmenistan		10,000 kitchen sets and 20,000 blankets		\$473,400
Airlift – Turkmenistan		1,000 winterized tents		\$167,000
ACTED		Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
ACTED		IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
ACTED		Livelihoods, agriculture, emergency rehab	Takhar, Baghlan, Shamali, Kabul, and Faryab.	\$750,000
CARE		Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,537,035
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)		Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,087
Church World Service		Transport of non-food items		\$49,902
Concern Worldwide		Distribution of seeds & tools, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, income generation activities	Badakshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Bamiyan provinces	\$1,737,318
Concern Worldwide		Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343
Field Support		Operational support for DARTs in Central Asia Region		\$1,339,456
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)		Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
FAO		Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
FAO		Manual locust eradication program	North	\$260,000
FAO		Security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, & spring seed distribution	All	\$2,500,000
FOCUS / Aga Khan		Seed multiplication, water supply rehabilitation, and complementary food distribution	Bamiyan, Baghlan, and Balkh	\$1,436,134
GOAL		Food, shelter, water, sanitation, winterization	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$5,500,000



USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
GOAL		Emergency agricultural, potable water and sanitation rehabilitation, and shelter repair	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$1,000,000
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)		Seed multiplication, technical assistance for seed procurement and regulation	All	\$2,525,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh provinces	\$562,313
IOM		Distribution of charcoal for cooking and heating fuel	Herat, Kunduz, and Faryab	\$1,069,760
International Medical Corps (IMC)		Primary health care	Herat	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan	\$3,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)		Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
IRC		Medical, public health, education & self-help programs in camps and urban settings	Balkh, Ghor	\$3,250,104
International Resource Group (IRG)		Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy Corps		Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps		Rehabilitation of wells & agriculture infrastructure, seed multiplication	Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Takhar, Kunduz & Baghlan	\$3,000,308
UNOCHA		Coordination	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
UNCHS (Habitat)		Cash-for-work rehabilitation of public areas, solid waste removal	Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif	\$382,850
Save the Children (SC)/US		Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
SC/US		Spot reconstruction, cash-for-work, and medical clinic rehabilitation	Faryab, Sar-e-Pul	\$3,262,312
Shelter for Life		Cash-for-work road reconstruction & emergency home repair for returning IDPs	Kunduz & Takhar	\$1,294,550
Solidarites		Rehabilitation, agricultural revitalization	Balkh, Bamiyan, Samangan	\$1,739,115
World Food Program (WFP)		Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000
WFP		Emergency road repair on border	Turmen border	\$300,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center		\$2,000,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$84,798,726</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan		\$2,000,000
WFP		36,000 MT Wheat		\$15,900,000
WFP		72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
WFP		24,320 MT Food commodities		\$18,600,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$75,055,000</b>
<b>USAID/OTI</b>				
Voice of America		Radio program		\$187,820
IOM		HEAR bulletin and radios		\$1,500,000
IOM		Community reconstruction		\$8,095,631
Internews		Media/journalist training		\$998,720
RONCO		Small grants/operations support		\$3,000,000
UNDP		UNDP Trust Fund in support of the Interim Afghan Administration		500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OTI.....</b>				<b>\$14,282,171</b>
<b>USDA</b>				
WFP		40,000 MT of Food commodities		\$22,500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USDA .....</b>				<b>\$22,500,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>				
ICRC		Emergency Appeal		\$13,500,000
IFRC		Emergency Appeal		\$5,000,000
IOM		Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
IRC		Operational Support		231,248
Mercy Corps		Operational support		\$162,775
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)		Project Management Information System		\$160,000
UNOCHA		Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,125,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)		Special Program for Afghanistan		\$600,000
WFP		Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
UNHCR		Emergency Appeal		\$30,000,000
UNICEF		Back-to-school campaign		\$2,000,000
UNICEF		Emergency Relief		\$4,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 State/PRM .....</b>				<b>\$63,779,023</b>
<b>DOD</b>				
		Airdrop of 2,423,700 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)		\$50,897,769
<b>Total FY 2002 DOD .....</b>				<b>\$50,897,769</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Afghanistan.....</b>				<b>\$311,312,689</b>

<b>TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT FY 2002</b>		
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>		
CARE	Purchase and distribution of winter wheat to 36,000 people	\$998,180
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA.....</b>		<b>\$998,180</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>		
WFP	35,000 MT wheat flour	20,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP.....</b>		<b>\$20,000,000</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan.....</b>		<b>\$20,998,180</b>

<b>FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*.....</b>	<b>\$183,107,625</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002.....</b>	<b>\$311,312,689</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001.....</b>	<b>\$494,420,314</b>
<b>Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001.....</b>	<b>\$67,210,000</b>
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
<b>Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002 .....</b>	<b>\$88,208,180</b>

\*Note: detailed breakdowns of FY 2001 and FY 2002 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region situation reports.

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Bernd McConnell  
Director, Central Asia Task Force

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)  
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

***CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency***

Situation Report #24, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

March 15, 2002

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

**BACKGROUND**

Prior to September 2001, two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Significant local and national resources were directed to the war effort. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, which controlled as much as 90 percent of the country, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men.

After September 11, 2001, fears of a reprisal to terrorist attacks against the United States triggered population movements in Afghanistan, as well as a complete exodus of international relief staff, greatly complicating humanitarian assistance. Nonetheless, assistance programs continued even after October 7, when the U.S.-led campaign against the Taliban and al-Qaeda began. The Taliban began to collapse in November, abandoning Mazar-e-Sharif on November 9, Kabul on November 13, and finally their Kandahar stronghold on December 7. The new Afghan Interim Administration (AIA) was sworn in on December 22. The demise of the Taliban has allowed increased humanitarian access to Afghanistan, and relief agencies re-established operations within the country. USAID/DART/Islamabad, from December 30 - January 7, 2002, made the first of an ongoing series of trips into Afghanistan to assess the situation and meet with implementing partners.

**Afghanistan: Numbers Affected**

<b>Total population</b> (CIA Factbook) .....	26,813,057
<b>Refugees Since January 1, 2002</b> (UNHCR)	
Pakistan .....	60,000
Iran .....	unknown
<b>Old Caseload Refugees</b> (UNHCR)	
Pakistan .....	2,000,000
Iran .....	1,500,000
<b>Internally Displaced</b> (UNDP/OCHA)	
Total as of February 20, 2002 .....	920,000
north and northeast.....	500,000
south and west .....	420,000

**Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002** (UNHCR)

Pakistan (Total) .....	225,946
Pakistan (spontaneous) .....	180,000
Pakistan (voluntary assisted since March 1) ...	45,446
Iran (spontaneous) .....	40,000

**Internally Displaced Returns Since January 1, 2002** (IOM)

To Kabul.....	unknown
To Shomali Plain (voluntary assisted).....	19,353
To northeast (spontaneous) .....	117,000
From Herat (voluntary assisted) .....	8,000
From Mazar-e-Sharif (voluntary assisted).....	5,000

**Total FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Assistance to Afghanistan\* .....**\$457,565,963

**Total FY 2001/2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan .....**\$88,208,180

**CURRENT SITUATION**

**Overview.** Reports of persecution of ethnic Pashtuns in the north of the country garnered attention from government officials and international agencies. USAID/OFDA-supported relief assistance to villagers in the northeast affected by the March 3 earthquake continued this week. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) distributed seeds and fertilizer at the start of the spring planting season, while also coordinating an eradication program for the recently hatched locust. The UN World Food Program (WFP) began its Civil Servant food distribution program in Kabul, with plans to

expand across the country. The pace of the organized returns of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased, prompting the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to increase staffing at voluntary repatriation centers in Pakistan. A USAID team traveled to the Shomali Plain, where the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is assisting an increasing number of IDPs to return. The team also visited the Salang Tunnel, where USAID/OFDA grantee ACTED maintains the recently re-opened north-south road. The World Health Organization (WHO) dispatched an emergency team to investigate an outbreak of scurvy in Ghor Province.

**Political/Military.** On March 13, Afghan Interim Administration (AIA) Chairman Hamid Karzai announced that former king Zahir Shaw, who plans to return to Afghanistan on March 21 to celebrate the Afghan New Year, will officially open the Loya Jirga assembly in June 2002.

On March 11, the "Six Plus Two" group – consisting of Afghanistan's six neighbors China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, plus the Russian Federation and the United States – held its first meeting in the presence of a representative from Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, who briefed participants on the current situation in Afghanistan. The group renewed its expression of support for the AIA, and reiterated the importance of reconstruction to stability in the region.

The fighting which began on March 3 between Coalition forces and Taliban and al-Qaeda members near Gardez, Paktia Province has diminished.

**Security.** According to the UN Coordination Office, two protection officers have been deployed to Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat to investigate reports of persecution of Pashtun minorities. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights traveled to Mazar-e-Sharif on March 10 to follow up on this issue. According to a spokesman for the AIA, three warlords in the north have been asked by Chairman Karzai to investigate. UNHCR noted the persecution when an increased flow of ethnic Pashtuns crossed into Pakistan in recent weeks. Human Rights Watch also recently documented the abuses against ethnic Pashtuns in northern Afghanistan.

On March 10, the United Nations Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) began defusing four 2,000 pound bombs at a former Russian military petrol depot at Khaid Khana near the Bagram road outside the city of Kabul. MAPA also issued a caution for people travelling from Kabul on the Old Bagram Road (near the turn off to the Bagram airbase) as several buried aircraft bombs are set up as booby traps linked to anti-personnel mines.

A rocket was reportedly fired this week at the Kabul airport. While the rocket did not explode, a French soldier was wounded. In the area around the city of Khost, a reward was reportedly offered for the capture or killing of coalition members, NGOs, IOs, or anyone under "western influence". Curfews are in effect in the Herat, Balkh, Kabul, Nangarhar, and Kandahar provinces.

**Earthquake.** On March 3, an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck Afghanistan. The deep epicenter of the earthquake, 195 kilometers below the Hindu Kush region, resulted in shocks felt throughout Central Asia. The areas most affected by the earthquake were Samangan, Takhar, Baghlan, and Badakhshan provinces.

As of March 12, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reports that a channel cut by relief workers through a dam created by the earthquake on the river at Saracunda in Samangan Province was allowing some water to flow downstream. However, water inflow is still greater than water outflow, and as a result, the water level behind the dam is still rising. UNOCHA estimates that half the dam must be removed to prevent further flooding. A risk of further landslide remains as well, according to UNOCHA and the USAID/OFDA grantee GOAL. According to UNOCHA, additional personnel and equipment are being brought to the area, including two ISAF technical engineers and a geo-technical expert. USAID/OFDA grantee International Medical Corps (IMC) has dispatched a rapid-response medical team to the earthquake, landslide, and flood-affected village of Sar-e-Kunda, Aibak District, in Samangan Province.

Following a recently completed assessment in Kisham District in Badakhshan Province, where nearly 500 houses were severely damaged or destroyed by the earthquake, USAID/OFDA grantee Shelter for Life is responding with distributions of food, tents, and blankets. IOM has provided tents in Jurm District, Badakhshan Province, where more than 340 houses in several villages were destroyed by the earthquake. USAID/OFDA grantee ACTED has responded to emergency needs in Gulbahar, Parwan Province, and the Afghan Red Crescent Society is assisting a small earthquake-affected population in Kabul.

**Food Aid.** FAO reports that approximately 30,000 families (150,000 people) in rural areas of northern Afghanistan have received 1,500 tons of wheat seed and fertilizers for the spring planting season through a program supported by USAID/OFDA. FAO estimates that farmers could harvest around 16,000 tonnes of wheat from the seeds distributed, providing a six-month supply of wheat for the farmer and his family. The seeds were distributed to poor farmers, refugee returnees, and internally displaced people in the provinces of Faryab and Sar-e-Pul. FAO is currently procuring another 2,800 tonnes of wheat seed and 1,500 tonnes of fertiliser, 26 tonnes of

vegetable seed, and hand tools to assist 88,000 more families (440,000 people).

WFP, in cooperation with the AIA and with USAID/OFDA support, has begun its Civil Servant food distribution program. Kabul's civil servants are receiving 12 kilograms of oil and 25 kilograms of pulses for two months. There are 33 distribution points throughout Kabul where some 60,000 recipients are picking up their rations, worth 50 percent of their cash salary. WFP will be reaching as many as 270,000 civil servants countrywide once the programme expands to all of the provinces.

According to USAID/OFDA grantee GOAL, locusts have hatched in Afghanistan's north. Currently, the locusts are still at the crawling stage where manual collection is possible. FAO, with USAID/OFDA support and in cooperation with a number of local and international organizations, is coordinating an eradication program. The program will cover Takhar, Baghlan, Sar-e-Pul, and Samangan provinces, as well as parts of Balkh and Kunduz provinces. Up to 20,000 Afghan volunteers will assist in the manual collection of the crawling locusts. The mechanical operation will be followed up by spraying.

WFP this week began its western Afghanistan rapid assessment mission, which will investigate the food security situation in the drought-affected Ghor, Badghis and Balkh provinces. A recently completed World Vision survey of drought-affected villages in Herat and Badghis provinces identified debt as a significant and increasing burden on the local population, as villagers sell assets and take out loans for the purchase of food and medicines. Many villagers have also come to rely on remittances from Iran as an important coping mechanism. There is concern that the already precarious situation of some communities in the area will become further complicated with the anticipated return of refugees and IDPs in the coming months.

On March 14, WFP began a citywide distribution of food in Kandahar, expected to run through March 20. Registration has been completed, and WFP anticipates distributing 2,308 metric tons of wheat to some 46,157 families.

**Logistics.** The road from Kabul to Kandahar is considered to be unsafe, especially at night. Snow this week affected flights and road travel in Badakhshan and Takhar provinces. The condition of the airfield at Chaghcharan in Ghor Province is worsening due to rain and snow.

On March 9, a USAID team including the USAID Afghanistan Country Director and the USAID Central Asia Task Force Director traveled to the Salang Pass to review the work of NGO grantee ACTED. USAID/OFDA has supported ACTED in re-opening the Salang Tunnel, a critical 1.6-kilometer link between Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif. ACTED's Salang Tunnel program, carried out in conjunction with the Afghan Ministry of Public Works (MPW) the Russian Emergency Affairs Ministry (EMERCOM), and HALO Trust, included the clearing of debris from the tunnel, demining the area, the implementation of a snow clearing program on the road leading to the tunnel on both sides, as well as a traffic control system to prevent the narrow mountain road from being overwhelmed. According to ACTED, the AIA MPW has supplied the labor and the machinery for the tunnel clearing, snow clearing and traffic control project. ACTED supports MPW with spare parts that are necessary to restore snow-clearing trucks to operation, fuel, winter clothing for MPW snow clearing personnel, pay, and personnel supervision. According to ACTED, the re-opening of the tunnel has shortened the trip between Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif by as much as 14 hours, and some 100 to 300 vehicles per day are now using the tunnel, including those delivering humanitarian assistance.

**IDPs and Refugees.** The pace of refugee and IDP returns increased again this week. On March 14, nearly 8,509 Afghans returned from Pakistan, bringing to 45,446 the number of refugees whom have come back home under the UNHCR and AIA repatriation program since March 1. To cope with the steadily increasing number of returnees, UNHCR is fielding more staff and resources on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. At the Tathtabaig voluntary repatriation center outside Peshawar in Pakistan, UNHCR hired additional staff to register refugees, kept the center open on Friday to clear a backlog of waiting returnees, and opened several new aid distribution points for returnees within Afghanistan. A second voluntary repatriation center is expected to open in Pakistan at Nawa Pass on April 1. As part of the initial UNHCR-sponsored process, refugees at Takhtabaig receive registration papers entitling them to a cash grant, WFP food assistance, and a repatriation package once they arrive back in Afghanistan. The majority of returnees have been making their way to Kabul, with the second most common destination being Nangarhar Province, despite lingering security concerns.

UNHCR staff in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province were informed on March 8 that more than 10,800

*new Afghan refugees who have been camped in squalid conditions for more than three weeks at the Chaman border crossing could now be registered.*

On March 6, UNHCR, IOM, and the AIA began a two-week initiative to return 15,700 IDPs in Kabul city to their homes in Shomali Plain. As of March 15, more than 5,853 of these IDPs had been assisted in returning home. Returnees are receiving assistance packages equivalent in nature to those given to refugee returnees coming from Pakistan, including shelter packages and WFP food aid. In January of this year, 13,500 IDPs were assisted by IOM in returning to the Shomali Plain from the Panjshir Valley. A recent survey by UNHCR and IOM conducted across Kabul city indicates a further 150,000 IDPs wishing to return home.

On March 9, a USAID team including the USAID Afghanistan Country Director and the USAID Central Asia Task Force Director traveled to USAID/OFDA project sites on the Shomali Plain. The team observed areas where returning IDPs are living in tents in de-mined areas provided by USAID/OFDA grantee ACTED. The team also visited an ACTED nonfood distribution center where returning IDPs receive shelter materials including roof beams, doors, door and window frames, and plastic sheeting, as well as jerry cans, blankets, stoves, heating fuel, and hygiene kits. During a stop in the town of Charikar, the team visited a women's center supported by USAID/OFDA through ACTED. The center is providing basic education, health instruction, and training in income generation projects such as clothing and quilts. With USAID/OFDA funding, ACTED is opening four more such centers in Kabul, Pul-e-Khumri, Maimaneh, and Taloqan. The team also visited a USAID/OFDA funded water project, where local staff reported that the water table in Shomali had risen one meter in the last year after falling for several years. ACTED is rehabilitating karezes (traditional underground water systems) and wells, as well as constructing new wells. Shomali, which is entering the spring planting season, had traditionally been an area that produced a large-scale food surplus, according to ACTED.

IOM anticipates the return through next week of some 20,000 IDPs staying in the Mazar-e-Sharif area. In a program that began March 6, IOM plans to assist some 4,000 families in returning to their areas of origin in Sharkent, Dar-e-Suf, and Alborz. An IOM convoy transported 299 displaced families on March 12 from Mazar-e-Sharif to their homes in the Charkent district of Balkh province. The convoy was the third to leave for Charkent in recent days,

*returning a total of 940 families to this mountainous and relatively inaccessible district.*

*An IOM convoy left Maslakh IDP camp in Herat on March 12 with approximately 60 families returning to villages in Badghis province. Another 108 families returned to the same province with IOM convoys on March 10-11.*

**Health.** Following an emergency meeting about a suspected hemorrhagic fever outbreak in Taywara, Ghor Province, where 40 people have reportedly died in remote villages, a U.S. public health officer noted that the reported symptoms are more likely the combined effect of micronutrient deficiencies and a viral diarrheal disease that has struck the area. WHO dispatched an emergency medical team to investigate. Initial reports indicate that an outbreak of scurvy is to blame, a disease caused by hunger and a lack of vitamin C. An unidentified secondary infection linked to diarrheal bleeding and fever is still under investigation. WHO has received reports of cases of night blindness in villagers in Taiwara that also seems to indicate a lack of Vitamin A. The Action Contre le Faim medical team that had been in Taiwara since March 2 has been successfully airlifted out of Taiwara and is in Herat. Doctors have examined members of the team, and none of them are showing any signs of hemorrhagic fever nor any other contagious disease.

WHO has received reports of 6 deaths in Darwaz in Badakhshan Province. The cases entail adults and children who reportedly developed high fever and a skin rash on the face, and then died within 2 days of developing the symptoms. Investigations are being carried out by local health officials with WHO support.

WHO officials confirm that sixty children have died of an outbreak of influenza in the Yumgan valley in Badakhshan Province. A WHO team traveled to the Yumgan valley last week to diagnose the disease and distribute antibiotics. The outbreak is now under control with no new cases reported.

In response to reports of persistent malnutrition, local and international agencies, including USAID/OFDA, met to agree on an action plan in the south of the country and to identify priority areas for rapid assessment.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Background.** On October 4, President George W. Bush announced a \$320 million assistance program for Afghanistan. Funding will support assistance to Afghans both inside and outside Afghanistan's borders, with support for food and a variety of other relief needs.

On October 4, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by USAID/OFDA, Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Demining Program, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance is for displaced persons inside Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

## USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

**Personnel.** USAID/OFDA currently has one Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) deployed to Pakistan to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in the region. USAID/DART members are traveling into Afghanistan to coordinate with the humanitarian relief community and assess the humanitarian situation.

**New Actions.** USAID/OFDA has funded a \$382,850 grant to the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat) to support a cash-for-work project employing 13,000 temporary laborers focused on the clean-up of public areas and parks in Kabul, Kandahar, and Mazar-e-Sharif in

*preparation for Nawruz (Afghan New Year) on March 21.*

*USAID/OFDA has funded a \$300,000 grant to WFP for the emergency repair of 42 miles of road straddling the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan border, which is critical to the continued efficient delivery of humanitarian aid.*

## USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE

**New Actions.** USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is providing two new contributions of P.L. 480 Title II food assistance to the WFP for distribution in Afghanistan, including 36,000 MT of wheat valued at \$15.9 million, and 24,320 MT of complementary commodities such as lentils and vegetable oil valued at \$18.6 million.



## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
<b>AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
Airlift – Turkmenistan		20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$743,543
Airlift – Turkmenistan		1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
Airlift – Islamabad		35,400 blankets		\$312,350
Airlift – Pakistan		5 health kits		\$29,415
Airlift – Turkmenabad		5 health kits		\$33,923
Airlift – Uzbekistan		350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
Airlift – Turkmenistan		10,000 kitchen sets and 20,000 blankets		\$473,400
Airlift – Turkmenistan		1,000 winterized tents		\$167,000
ACTED		Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
ACTED		IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
ACTED		Livelihoods, agriculture, emergency rehab	Takhar, Baghlan, Shamali, Kabul, and Faryab.	\$750,000
CARE		Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,537,035
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)		Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,087
Church World Service		Transport of non-food items		\$49,902
Concern Worldwide		Distribution of seeds & tools, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, income generation activities	Badakshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Bamiyan provinces	\$1,737,318
Concern Worldwide		Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343
Field Support		Operational support for DARTs in Central Asia Region		\$1,339,456
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)		Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
FAO		Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
FAO		Security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, & spring seed distribution	All	\$2,500,000
FOCUS / Aga Khan		Seed multiplication, water supply rehabilitation, and complementary food distribution	Bamiyan, Baghlan, and Balkh	\$1,436,134
GOAL		Food, shelter, water, sanitation, winterization	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$5,500,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
GOAL		Emergency agricultural, potable water and sanitation rehabilitation, and shelter repair	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$1,000,000
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)		Seed multiplication, technical assistance for seed procurement and regulation	All	\$2,525,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh provinces	\$562,313
IOM		Distribution of charcoal for cooking and heating fuel	Herat, Kunduz, and Faryab	\$1,069,760
International Medical Corps (IMC)		Primary health care	Herat	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan	\$3,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)		Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
IRC		Medical, public health, education & self-help programs in camps and urban settings	Balkh, Ghor	\$3,250,104
International Resource Group (IRG)		Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy Corps		Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps		Rehabilitation of wells & agriculture infrastructure, seed multiplication	Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Takhar, Kunduz & Baghlan	\$3,000,308
UNOCHA		Coordination	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
UNCHS (Habitat)		Cash-for-work rehabilitation of public areas, solid waste removal	Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif	\$382,850
Save the Children (SC)/US		Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
SC/US		Spot reconstruction, cash-for-work, and medical clinic rehabilitation	Faryab, Sar-e-Pul	\$3,262,312
Shelter for Life		Cash-for-work road reconstruction & emergency home repair for returning IDPs	Kunduz & Takhar	\$1,294,550
Solidarites		Rehabilitation, agricultural revitalization	Balkh, Bamiyan, Samangan	\$1,739,115
World Food Program (WFP)		Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000
WFP		Emergency road repair on border	Turmen border	\$300,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center		\$2,000,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$84,538,726</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan		\$2,000,000
WFP		36,000 MT Wheat		\$15,900,000
WFP		72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
WFP		24,320 MT Food commodities		\$18,600,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$75,055,000</b>
<b>USAID/OTI</b>				
Voice of America		Radio program	All	\$187,820
IOM		HEAR Bulletin and Radios	All	\$1,500,000
UNDP		UNDP Trust Fund in support of the interim Afghan administration	All	500,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OTI.....</b>				<b>\$2,187,820</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>				
ICRC		Emergency Appeal		\$13,500,000
IFRC		Emergency Appeal		\$5,000,000
IOM		Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
IRC		Operational Support		231,248
Mercy Corps		Operational support		\$162,775
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)		Project Management Information System		\$160,000
UNOCHA		Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,125,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)		Special Program for Afghanistan		\$600,000
WFP		Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
UNHCR		Emergency Appeal		\$30,000,000
UNICEF		Emergency Relief		\$4,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 State/PRM .....</b>				<b>\$61,779,023</b>
<b>DOD</b>				
Airdrop of 2,423,700 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)				\$50,897,769
<b>Total FY 2002 DOD .....</b>				<b>\$50,897,769</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Afghanistan.....</b>				<b>\$274,458,338</b>

<b>TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT FY 2002</b>				
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>				
CARE		Purchase and distribution of winter wheat to 36,000 people		\$998,180
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA.....</b>				<b>\$998,180</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>				
WFP		35,000 MT wheat flour		20,000,000
<b>Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP.....</b>				<b>\$20,000,000</b>
<b>Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan.....</b>				<b>\$20,998,180</b>

<b>FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*.....</b>	<b>\$183,107,625</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002.....</b>	<b>\$274,458,338</b>
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001.....</b>	<b>\$457,565,963</b>
<b>Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001.....</b>	<b>\$67,210,000</b>
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
<b>Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002 .....</b>	<b>\$88,208,180</b>

\*Note: detailed breakdowns of FY 2001 and FY 2002 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region situation reports.

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USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)